

Testimony of Peter Daigle
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SB 300 AN ACT CONCERNING PERSONS WHO DECONTAMINATE
MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS

Good afternoon Senator Doyle, Representative Baram, and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Peter Daigle and I am President of the Connecticut Central Service Association.

I would like to illustrate the importance of certified central service technicians by giving you an example of what I have witnessed in my career. A central service technician, not certified, was running a pre-vacuum sterilizer and went to take a break. When the technician came back, he/she started to do another sterilizer, and realized the first sterilizer was still in exhaust mode. This technician opened up the sterilizer and left it to cool without telling anyone what he/she had done. Someone noticed this and asked the technician if he/she thought the sterilizer should be tested because the parameters of this one type of sterilization method includes exposure time, temperature, and the pressure of the chamber. This is vital to the process. The technician did not do it.

The next morning, the supervisor came in and noticed the long exhaust time on the printout and recalled every single tray that was on that load - 23 trays. Some of them were on case carts for surgery. We managed to get them all back. When we opened them up, the integrator on the inside of the majority of them did not turn black, which meant they were not sterile. If they had been used, you can only imagine what could have happened to that patient.

This is why the certification and continuing education of central service technicians should be required.

As a patient, you can pick the best hospital and the best surgeon but if the instruments used for your surgery have not been properly sterilized you are at risk of infection. Wouldn't you want the people performing this job to have more education to do this job properly?

I would be pleased to answer any questions. Thank you.